



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE

BOROUGH of LEOMINSTER

1938

Issued June, 1939.

LEOMINSTER,
AREA MEDICAL OFFICE,

6th July, 1939.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Borough of Leominster.*

Gentlemen,

In presenting to you my first Annual Report, I have followed Circular No. 1728 of the Ministry of Health.

The vital statistics for the year are satisfactory. A fuller report on the vital statistics of the area is envisaged in future reports; small numbers involved may give rise to apparently erroneous figures.

The new Swimming Bath is proving its value and I would refer you to the comments made later in my report.

I took up my duties as Medical Officer of Health on the 29th August, 1938, and this report concerns the work of my predecessor during the first part of the year and my work during the last part of the year.

I should like to record my gratitude to the Town Clerk, the Borough Surveyor and the Sanitary Inspector for the help that they have given me in taking up my new duties, and my appreciation of the combination of tact and thoroughness shown by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Smith, in his work.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. F. GREEN,
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

DAVID G. ANDERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Appointed October, 1935. Resigned June, 1938).

FREDERICK HARVEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
(Appointed temporarily, June, 1938. Resigned August, 1938).

HUGH F. GREEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.

(Appointed 29th August, 1938).

Area Medical Office, Leominster

(Telephone No. : Leominster 95).

Sanitary Inspector.

ALBERT S. SMITH, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., etc.

(Appointed March, 1935).

Municipal Offices, Leominster (Tel. No. : Leominster 257).

Clerical Staff—Area Medical Office:

J. J. ADAMS (Resigned 30th September, 1938).

B. J. SCANDRETT (Appointed 1st October, 1938).

DUTIES OF PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Medical Officer of Health, who is restricted from private practice, is Medical Officer of Health for six other County Districts, and Assistant County Medical Officer.

In his latter capacity he is in clinical charge of the tuberculosis dispensary and maternity and child welfare centre. He also carries out the medical inspection of the school children at the two elementary schools in the Borough Parish and the boys at the Grammar School. This gives the greatest co-ordination possible between the county and district work.

The Sanitary Inspector is a full time official and devotes all his time to housing and sanitary duties except for work as Shops Inspector. There is a clerk in his department, solely engaged on Sanitary duties. Certain Corporation workmen are available when needed for disinfection and disinfection, cleaning of slaughterhouse and other like duties.

The clerk at the Area Medical Office is available for both County and District work.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area (in Acres)	8,728
Population, Census 1931	5,707
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-year 1938	5,546
Structurally separate dwellings occupied (Census, 1931)	1,415
No. of Inhabited Houses (end of 1938), according to Rate Book ...	1,664
Number of Private Families (Census, 1931)	1,420
Rateable Value: £32,679.	
Sum represented by a Penny Rate: £131 ls. 4d.	

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The Borough parish is Urban, but there are no large works, and the town is dependent upon the surrounding agricultural district, the industries being ancillary to agriculture. Wage levels are determined largely by that of the agricultural workers and house rents are on the whole correspondingly low.

The Ordnance Factory at Hereford is absorbing a fair amount of labour.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:—

		Total	M.	F.		
Live Births	{ Legitimate	80	40	40	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the est. resident population	15.33
	{ Illegitimate	5	3	2		
		<hr/> 85	<hr/> 43	<hr/> 42		
Stillbirths	... ..	4	2	2	{ Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	47.06
Deaths	... ..	66	29	37	{ Death Rate per 1,000 of the est. resident population	11.9
					Standardised Death Rate ...	9.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

		Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live & Still Births).
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	...	Nil	Nil
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	...	Nil	Nil
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	Nil	Nil

Chief Statistics for England and Wales for the year 1938, compared with those for the Borough of Leominster.

		Rate per 1,000 pop.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	Maternal Mort. per 1,000 total births.		
	Live Births.	Deaths, all causes.	Deaths under 1 yr. of age.	Puer. Sepsis.	Others.	
England and Wales	... 15.1	11.6	53	0.86	2.19	
Borough of Leominster	... 15.33	11.9	58.82	Nil	Nil	

* The Standardised Death Rate is 9.4.

Death rate of infants under one year of age:—

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births ...	58.82
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	50.0
(c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	20.0
Deaths—From Cancer (all ages) ...	9
From Measles (all ages) ...	Nil
From Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	2
From Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ...	Nil

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Staff.—See beginning of report.

Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological and chemical examinations are made at the County and City Public Health Laboratory, County Offices, Bath Street, Hereford. These examinations are carried out free of charge to the County Districts, which is of great value. All results are communicated both to the private practitioner and the Area Medical Officer of Health so that action may be taken as promptly as possible. Special examinations, such as virulence tests in Diphtheria, are carried out at Birmingham or Bristol University Laboratories.

The following examinations were made at the County Laboratory during the year:—

Ambulance Facilities.

There is no ambulance maintained by the Authority. A contribution is made to the motor ambulance maintained by the British Red Cross Society. This service is maintained voluntarily and is most efficient. It is available for all non-infectious cases. The ambulance station is in South Street (Tel. No.: Leominster 121).

Open cases of tuberculosis are dealt with by the Herefordshire County Council ambulance from Nieuport Sanatorium.

Removal of cases of other infectious disease are dealt with by the Hereford Rural District Council under the agreement for isolation accommodation.

Nursing in the Home.

(a) General Nursing.

The Leominster Parish Nurse Society, or Nursing Association, employs two nurse-midwives, who cover the greater part of the district. Part of the Ivington district is served by the Dilwyn district nurse.

(b) Infectious Disease Nursing.

No provision is made for the nursing of these diseases in the home.

Treatment Centres and Clinics, including Clinics solely for Diagnosis or Consultation.

There are none provided by the Authority. Under the County Council schemes there are two clinics.

A Tuberculosis Dispensary is held on alternate Fridays at 11 a.m. at the Cottage Hospital Hut.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is conducted on the same days at 2.0 p.m. at the Mission Room, Etnam Street.

The nearest Venereal Diseases Clinic is at the Public Assistance Institution, Hereford.

An Orthopædic After-care Clinic is held in the Cottage Hospital Hut on Tuesdays. This clinic is conducted purely on a voluntary basis, though its facilities are made use of by the County Council. Orthopædic Sisters from the Shropshire Orthopædic Hospital attend every meeting. The Consulting Orthopædic Surgeon attends at intervals. Cases are seen at other times at Hereford. Cases requiring Hospital treatment are admitted to the Shropshire Orthopædic Hospital (Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt).

Hospitals.

Public.—None is provided by the Authority. Sick wards at the Public Assistance Institution are provided by the County Council.

Voluntary.—Situate in the Borough is the Leominster Cottage Hospital, which was enlarged during 1937 and now in 1939 has 16 beds. The administrative accommodation was also increased. The Hospital possesses both an operating theatre and X-ray plant and carries out a most useful work.

The Hereford General Hospital and the Victoria Eye Hospital at Hereford also serve the district.

The Infectious Disease Hospital is at Stretton Sugwas and the Small-pox Hospital at Bromyard, both available under an arrangement with the Hereford Rural District Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

BOROUGH SUPPLY.

At various points 20 samples were taken. Chemical and Bacteriological analysis in accordance with the Ministry's recommendation were undertaken at the County Laboratory. Twenty samples were examined Chemically and none showed any evidence of pollution. Of the 20 samples

examined Bacteriologically 17 were satisfactory, one showed B. Coli present in 100 c.cs., but absent in 50 c.cs.; and two showed no B. Coli present in 100 c.cs., but rather a high plate count.

SOURCES OTHER THAN BOROUGH SUPPLY.

There was no drought in 1938 and no complaints were made of shortage. During the year samples were taken and submitted to the County Laboratory. Bacteriological examinations as well as chemical analysis were made, some waters being submitted to both tests and some to only one. A summary of the results is given below:—

<i>Method of Examination.</i>	<i>Pure.</i>	<i>Polluted.</i>	<i>Doubtful.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Chemical 	14	9	5	28
Bacteriological 	14	16	4	34
	—	—	—	—
	28	25	9	—

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No progress has been made during the year towards the scheme for treatment of the town sewerage. This matter is an urgent one.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The stream in Mill Street and Bridge Street is becoming choked up and foul. From time to time and according to the variations in the flow of the stream this constitutes a nuisance. It is not clear, however, who is the responsible authority in this particular case.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

This is detailed in the Sanitary Inspector's report, but attention is drawn to the amount of common usage and the large number of the long hopper type, which is insanitary itself and generally has a wooden surround which it is almost impossible to keep thoroughly clean.

The privies and pail closets are in the Out-Parish, where conditions are really rural.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Controlled tipping has been continued at the public tip with satisfactory results, and there is now no nuisance resulting. A gassing machine is used on occasions to keep down the number of rats.

Collections in the Borough parish take place once or twice weekly according to the locality. In the Out-Parish there is no public collection, though certain houses have the refuse removed by the Council for a yearly charge. These houses are those just fringing the Borough parish.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The Sanitary Inspector's report is given below, and includes his comments on certain matters.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Leominster.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my fourth Annual Report. Most of the houses inhabited by the poorer sections of the community were built between 100 and 150 years ago. They are essentially slum houses and conform to the standard of slum houses built in other parts of the country during that period. These houses fall below modern standards in design, and through neglect and failure to repair have fallen into a state of desolation. The new Council houses built have shown the population the difference between old and modern housing standards. This has resulted in a very large increase in the number of applications for Council houses.

My thanks I tender to you once again,

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

ALBERT STUART SMITH,

Sanitary Inspector.

REPORT under Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:—

INSPECTIONS UNDER.	No. of Inspections.	Informal Notices Served.	Statutory Notices Served.	Notices complied with.
Housing (1936) Act	940	41	14	37
Housing (Public Health Acts) ...	275	35	9	31
Workshops and Factories	60	10	—	11
Cowsheds and Dairies	92	14	—	14
Bakehouses	23	3	—	3
Slaughterhouses	448	—	—	—
Food Premises (including Market)	85	1	—	1
Schools	3	1	—	1
Water Supplies	64	14	1	6
Infectious Diseases	79	—	—	—
Nuisances (Complaints)	85	85	1	82
Miscellaneous Visits	45	—	—	—
Shops Act Visits	194	18	—	15

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Cases inquired into	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
No. of visits in connection with notifications	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Premises (other than Schools) fumigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Schools fumigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Lots of Clothing, etc., disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

MODE OF DISINFECTION.

- (a) HOUSES—Formalin lamps and liquid spraying.
 (b) BEDDING—Negligible; no steam disinfecter available.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Samples taken and submitted for analysis.

(a) Piped Supplies (House taps)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Wells	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
(c) Streams	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Wells closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Wells cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Wells sunk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pumps Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Piped Supplies Replacing Wells	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Pumps Replacing Bucket and Windlass	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Internal Water Supplies Replacing Common Stand Pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25

REMARKS:—

- (a) The following Out-Parish areas are not provided with town water:

Brierley.
 Broadward and Elms Green.
 Cholestrey.
 Eaton.
 Ebnal and Stagbatch.
 Ginhall Lane.
 Hyde Ash, Aulden and Wintercott.
 Ivington.
 Newtown.
 Stretford and Hennor.
 Wharton and Marlbrook.

In general, the water supplies for houses in Out-Parish areas comprise private shallow wells, usually unlined, and of a type lending to contamination.

(b) Piped water supply exists in the Borough Proper. Many working class houses still share stand pipes situate in common yard areas.

HOUSE DRAINS.

New drains laid.				
New Houses	...	...	...	70
Old Houses	...	...	...	36
Drains relaid	...	...	...	37
Cleansed, trapped or ventilated	...	...	...	13
New Sinks and Drainage provided.				
New Houses	...	...	...	70
Old Houses	...	...	...	38
Drains examined or tested	...	...	...	6
Inspection chambers built (old houses)	...	...	...	8
Septic Tanks built.	New houses	9		
	Old houses	4	...	13

Borough Proper.

Drainage of old houses is in the main poor, comprising usually of unjointed pipes, void of inspection chambers or ventilation shafts.

Out-Parish.

New Houses—Septic tanks.

Old Houses—Generally to ditches (cesspools or septic tanks negligible).

WATER CLOSETS.

Additional provided.				
New Houses	...	...	...	70
Old Houses	...	...	...	9
				<hr/>
			TOTAL	79
				<hr/>
Repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	9
Provided with cisterns	...	...	...	81

BOROUGH PROPER.—Common usage of closets, usually in the ratio of 1 to 2 houses, prevails in many cases. A type of closet existing on a large scale is the old fashioned long hopper with foul wooden surround.

OUT-PARISH.—Pail and privy closets predominate.

PRIVIES.

Converted to water closets	...	...	...	...	8
Converted to pail or chemical closets	...	...	...	...	8

PAIL CLOSETS.

Abolished	...	...	...	...	Nil
Converted to water closets	...	...	...	...	Nil

Disposal of contents from pail or privy closets.—Buried or dug into gardens.
No collection by local authority.

BAKEHOUSES.

Number in district	...	...	...	...	8
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	23
Defects found	...	...	...	...	3

None of the bakeries provide wrapped bread.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Number registered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	243

PUBLIC ABATTOIR.

Number of butchers using	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	205

CONDUCT OF PREMISES.—The premises are kept in a clean condition, and offal and manure is removed as occasion necessitates.

DAIRIES.

(Other than in connection with cowsheds).

Number on register	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Number on register	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82

Machine milking exists in four cases. Bottling is carried out at ten premises, and, with little exception, retailed milk is delivered in bottles. Several cowhouses and dairies are of good standard. Accredited Producers number 6. Six obtained licenses through the County Council. One new cowhouse has been erected.

FATORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Bakers	...	...	...	8	Laundries	...	...	...	1
Blacksmiths and Wheelwrights	...	...	...	7	Plumbers	...	...	...	5
Builders and Contractors	...	...	...	6	Cider Works	...	...	...	1
Cabinet Makers	...	...	...	4	Boot Repairers, etc.	...	...	...	10
Coach Builders	...	...	...	2	Upholsterers	...	...	...	4
Dressmakers	...	...	...	5	Ironmongers	...	...	...	3
Harness Makers and Saddlers	...	...	...	2	Flour Mills	...	...	...	3
Monumental Masons	...	...	...	4	Gas Works	...	...	...	1
Motor Garages	...	...	...	8	Electric Stations	...	...	...	1
Tailors	...	...	...	9	Builders' Merchants	...	...	...	1
Printers	...	...	...	3	Radio Stores	...	...	...	4
Jewellers, etc.	...	...	...	3	Corn Merchants	...	...	...	4
Carpenters	...	...	...	7	Warehouses	...	...	...	4

SHOPS ACTS, 1912-1936.

There are approximately 120 shops in the Borough Proper where assistants are employed.

Number of visits	194
Communications despatched	18
Interviews	3
Heating Apparatus installed	8
Water Closets installed	4
Administration of the Act vests in the Local Authority.	
Sinks installed	3

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

	Found to be infested.	Disinfested.
(1) (a) Council Houses	1	1
(b) Other Houses	50	—
TOTAL ...	51	1

- (2) Methods employed for freeing infested houses from bugs—Cescones—Fumigator of C.E.S. Co., Ltd., London.
- (3) Method employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses—Gas. "Cimex Fumigators." Furniture, bedding, etc., treated in sealed vans.
- (4) Whether work of disinfestation is carried out by local Authority or by a Contract—Contractor engaged by Local Authority.
- (5) Measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing—50 circular letters despatched to tenants to be re-housed.

NOTE.—The 50 houses given above as infested are in Clearance Areas confirmed, or are houses subject to Section 11 procedure, and are to be demolished or closed for human habitation. The old unfit houses prior to demolition are not disinfested. However, to prevent dissemination of vermin by outgoing tenants from old houses the Local Authority has placed a contract with Messrs. Cimex, Ltd., London, who are undertaking the removal and disinfestation (Cimex Fumigators) of the effects of tenants in sealed vans. At the end of the year the effects of tenants from 24 old houses had been removed, disinfested, and transferred to new houses, and the balance of 26 will have been similarly dealt with prior to circulation of this report.

HOUSING.

(1) During the year, following a blank 1937, the erection of 50 new Council houses for re-housing of families from unhealthy areas, or individual unfit houses, has been in progress. Twenty-four houses were completed early in December, and 24 families were re-housed prior to the end of the year. It is anticipated that 26 further families will be re-housed early in 1939, and before these notes are in print.

(2) No building programme or proceedings towards the abatement of overcrowding has been undertaken. Twenty new houses would eradicate

present overcrowding, and a desirable feature during 1939 would undoubtedly be the inclusion in any building programme of twenty houses to meet the needs of families affected and the total extinction of an undesirable, unhealthy, and unhappy state of affairs.

(3) Clearance Orders were confirmed during the year affecting 98 houses. Public Inquiry, June, 1939. Under present progress it will be approximately two years before displacements take place.

(4) Sections 11/12 procedure has been instituted in respect of 46 houses, and the position is as follows:

Demolition Orders Authorised	9
Closing Orders Made	1
Undertakings Accepted (not to use for human habitation) ...	3
Undertakings accepted to make fit	12
In preliminary stage at end of year	21
TOTAL ...	46

(5) It is estimated on a rough survey that 400 families are living under unfit housing conditions. Undoubtedly there is dire need of better abodes, and a demand for healthy conditions and environment. The small number of houses built during the year has given a new outlook in life to a number of families, and created an interest amongst others for brighter and more cheery homes in lieu of the century old worn out habitations which are crippling the inhabitants with rheumatism or similar ailments. When it is realised that new houses have been, and can be, provided as follows, on splendid healthy sites.

1	Bedroom Houses at 3/-	Rental, exclusive of rates.
2	"	4/- " "
3	"	4/6 " "
4	"	5/- " "
5	"	6/- " "

there would appear no reason why a 5 years' building programme should not be embarked upon.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Total	70
(b) With State assistance under Housing Acts:—	
(i) By Local Authority	50
(ii) By other bodies or persons	—

ACTION WITH REGARD TO EXISTING HOUSES.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	196
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,215
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	142
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	940
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	122

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	41
(5) Number of occupied houses in Clearance Areas confirmed and against which Replacement Houses were not available or in course of erection for the inhabitants	100
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices:	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers...	29
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 11 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	14
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	8
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	9
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	9
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2
(3) Undertakings not to use for human habitation	3
(4) Closing Orders made	1
(5) Houses in respect of which Demolition or Closing Orders have been made or authorised, but which houses were still inhabited at end of year, and against which replacement houses are <i>not</i> available or in course of erection for the inhabitants	8
(d) As to Ministry of Health's Circular 1650, Proceedings taken	—
4. Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding:—	
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ...	29
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	31
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	221
(b) Number of cases of overcrowding during the year	2
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	4
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	28
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after local authority have taken steps for abatement of overcrowding	Nil

OVERCROWDING.

The position is similar to that existing in the 1936 Report. No houses have been built, or any building programme undertaken or proposed to relieve overcrowding existing.

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACT, 1926-36.

Total Number of Applications for Grants	11
Applications for Grants Approved	5
Houses Reconditioned (Completed)	3
Total Amount of Grants	£500

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.—Routine inspections of farms and dairies.

Examination for bacterial content—Accredited Milks only.

Examination for Tubercle Bacilli—None by Local Authority.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

The number of persons and premises registered is 24.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS, 1936 & 1938.

Six persons have secured and retained licenses for the production of Accredited Milk under the County Council. The inspections of the premises and the taking of samples are undertaken on behalf of the County Council.

MEAT INSPECTION.

TOTAL NUMBER OF KILLINGS IN DISTRICT ... 3,838.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, ex- cluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known) ...	465	Nil	69	2164	1140
Number inspected	465	Nil	69	2164	1140
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	Nil	1	1	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	5	Nil	Nil	8	Nil
Percentage of the Number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	1.1%	Nil	1.45%	.41%	Nil
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

NOTE.—No cows, beyond an occasional cow-heifer, are killed in the district. Only young prime quality store cattle (bullocks and heifers) are slaughtered. This accounts for the high and excellent quality of meat exposed for sale. Condemnations on a percentage basis are negligible.

METHOD OF INSPECTION.—In accordance with Memo 62 Foods, by a qualified Meat Inspector. Visits are made to the Public Abattoir not only in official hours, but after official hours (evenings). The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, are well observed by all meat traders. Notice of slaughtering is given in every instance—a card system being in operation. Co-operation exists in giving effect to the various requirements of the Meat Regulations.

No Meat Marking Scheme under Part III. of the Regulations is in operation. Bye-laws are in force respecting slaughterhouses.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S YEAR'S WORKING.

Routine Inspections and re-inspections (Housing, Nuisances, etc.)	... 1494
Factory Inspections	... 14
Workshop Inspections	... 46
Farms, Cowshed and Dairy Inspections	... 92
Milk Samples taken (Accredited)	... 33
Bakehouse Inspections	... 23
Visits to Public Abattoir	... 205
Visits to Private Slaughterhouses	... 243
Food Premises	... 33
Shops Act, 1912-1936 (Visits 194; Letters 18; Interviews 3)	... 215
Infectious Diseases Visits	... 79
Disinfections after Infectious Diseases	... 17
Visits re other Diseases	... 1
Disinfections after other Diseases	... 5
Visits to Verminous Premises	... 52
Disinfection after Vermin	... 25
Visits to Tents, Caravans and Camping Sites	... 13
Water Samples taken	... 64
Overcrowding Communications and Visits	... 8
Formal Notices re Overcrowding	... 1
Drains Tested or Inspected	... 46
Visits to Piggeries	... 5
Notices and Communications Despatched	... 368
Interviews	... 145
Requisitions for Information Served	... 31
Power of Entry Notices Served	... 112
Notices to Quit	... 42
Miscellaneous Visits	... 45
Principal Ground Notices	... 49

ALBERT STUART SMITH, M.S.I.A., C.R. San. I.,

Cert. Meat and other Foods, Cert. C.I.S.

Sanitary Inspector.

Municipal Offices,
Leominster.

SCHOOLS.

The following schools were closed during the year:—

Leominster Infants—11/2/38 to 18/2/38—Mumps and Colds.

Leominster Council—4/4/38 to 8/4/38—Mumps.

HOUSING.

I have the opportunity of studying not only housing conditions, but also the health of the children attending the Welfare Centre up to 5 years, and the health of school children. In so doing I meet many women who tell me of the conditions that the state of their houses makes in the rearing of children, and I am forced to the conclusion that the poor standard of housing in this town is one of the major difficulties with which we are faced. It is distressing only to be able to offer sympathy instead of better housing conditions.

SWIMMING BATHS.

These baths are a great credit to the town and will prove to be of inestimable value in promoting healthy growth in children and improving the physique of the adolescents and adults of this town.

It is impossible to give an accurate figure showing the number of times the baths have been used, but it is estimated that there were 17,500 attendances for swimming during last year.

Two Bacteriological and two Chemical samples were taken from the baths and examined at the County Laboratory. All four were satisfactory. A system of "Chloramination" is used. This system consists of the addition of both chlorine and ammonia to the water and provides that the chlorine remains active for a longer time than it would do by itself, the ammonia also reduces to large degree the unpleasant taste of the chlorine to the bathers.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There have been 33 cases of infectious disease notified during 1938.

Diphtheria.—Only one case of this disease occurred.

Scarlet Fever.—Twenty-eight cases of Scarlet Fever occurred. Nine of these occurred at the Orphans' Home, and ultimately were traced to a persistent carrier who had never suffered from Scarlet Fever. The carrier was removed and no further cases have occurred. The other cases were sporadic in nature.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, other than Tuberculosis during 1938

CASES NOTIFIED.

Disease.	All Ages.	Under 1 yr.	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Cases T'l. and ad. to over. H's. Dts.
Scarlet Fever ..	28	—	2	1	—	—	4	12	3	3	4	—	—	22
Diphtheria ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Puerperal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Primary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—
Acute Influenzal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Anterior	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-myelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

During the year 1938 twenty-four cases from the district were admitted to the Credenhill Isolation Hospital. The present arrangements have now been in force for some time and have not altered, namely, that the Hospital is owned and worked by the Hereford Rural District Council, which rents the old Bromyard Isolation Hospital as a Smallpox Hospital. A retaining fee of £15 per bed is paid. Whilst the Council is only entitled to have in Hospital two patients at any one time, the arrangement, through the courtesy of the Hereford Rural District Council, is elastic and we have had on occasions more than six cases in at once. The only two diseases other than Smallpox mentioned in the agreement are Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, which must not be complicated on admission by contact with other infectious disease. As an act of grace other diseases such as Typhoid and Cerebro-Spinal Fever would be admitted and no attempt has been made to obtain an additional fee, the whole being covered by the original retaining fee and maintenance charges. The accommodation is definitely insufficient, not only as regards facilities for treating other infectious diseases, but for the isolation of those suffering from more than one disease.

One great change has taken place during the year. Cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis are now treated at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, where isolation facilities are provided. The Council has made itself responsible for the cost of treatment for the first six weeks of the disease, that is to say, during the period of infection; after this time the case becomes an orthopaedic case, for which the County Council is responsible. By so doing adequate and specialised orthopaedic treatment is available from the very first stages of the disease and the crippling after effects should be greatly lessened.

TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of 1937 there were twelve cases on the Notification Register. During the year nine were added (seven Pulmonary and two Non-Pulmonary), and five were removed, leaving sixteen on the Register at the end of 1938.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
35	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	2	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
Total	3	4	2	—	2	1	1	1

ADULTERATION OF FOOD, ETC.

The administration of these acts and regulations is carried out by the County Council through the police.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

There are no laboratories carrying out such work in the district. The bacteriological and other examination of food stuffs in cases of suspected food poisoning would be dealt with under the Ministry of Health's scheme.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH EDUCATION.

Teaching and advice is carried out almost entirely individually, and at the same time general advice and assistance is given to social workers and teachers who may require it.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

The County Council carry out all the work under this heading. Your Medical Officer of Health as Assistant County Medical Officer, arranges for the treatment of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

In the Annual Report for 1936 it was advised that hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease other than diphtheria or scarlet fever was required and this would apply to cases where complications involving the eyes arose.

CASES.		Treated. In hospital.	Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blind- ness.	Deaths.
Notified.	At home.					
Nil.	—	—	—	—	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1938.

							M.	F.
1. Whooping Cough (4)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
2. Influenza (6)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
3. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System (9)	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
4. Cancer (13)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	4
5. Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc. (15)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
6. Heart Disease (16)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	15
7. Other Circulatory Diseases (18)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
8. Bronchitis (19)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
9. Other Respiratory Diseases (21)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
10. Peptic Ulcer (22)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
11. Appendicitis (24)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
12. Acute and Chronic Nephritis (28)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
13. Congenital Debility and Premature Birth (31)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
14. Suicide (33)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
15. Other Violence (34)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
16. Other Defined Diseases (35)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
TOTAL							66	37

INFANT MORTALITY, 1938.

The following deaths of children under 1 year occurred during the year:

LEGITIMATE.

Intra-cranial haem	1 Male, aged 3 days.
Cerebral irritation	1 Male, aged 7 months.
Whooping Cough and Broncho-pneumonia	1 Male, aged 1 month.
Prematurity	1 Female, aged 6 days.

ILLEGITIMATE.

Malnutrition	1 Male, aged 9 weeks.
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LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Adoptive legislation in force in the Borough is as follows:—

From May 1st, 1891.

The Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890.

From August, 1923.

Part VI. of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907 (Relating to Recreation Grounds).

From 9th August, 1926.

Public Health Act, 1925—Part II. (Streets and Buildings).

From 18th August, 1932.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907 Section 81. (Describing the definition of a public place for certain purposes).

ADOPTED in 1932.

Byelaws relating to:—

1. New Streets and Buildings.
2. Slaughterhouses.
3. Public Slaughterhouse.
4. Removal of Refuse.
5. Cleansing of Footpaths.
6. Common Lodging Houses.
7. Nuisances.
8. Pleasure Grounds known as the Grange.
9. Children's Playground in Pinsley Road.

ADOPTED in 1937.

Byelaws with respect to Houses occupied or of a type suitable for occupation by persons of the working classes (28th July, 1937).

Byelaws re Sydonia Recreation Ground.

ADOPTED in 1936.

Byelaws re Swimming Bath.